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Today: Podcast: Virus devastates Tenderloin
Ten weeks into sheltering in place, S.F.'s Tenderloin remains crowded with tents and people who can't maintain social distance. What should City Hall be doing to help?



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UPDATED CORONAVIRUS TRACKER
Graphics track tests, cases, deaths and progress toward reopening. sfchronicle.com/coronavirus-map

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Bay Area
Loss of warehouse, equipment in Pier 45 fire a huge blow to fishing and crabbing industries. B1

San Francisco Chronicle

SFCHRONICLE.COM | **Monday, May 25, 2020** | CONTAINS RECYCLED PAPER | \$2.00 ★★★★★



A worker on Scott Seus' farm checks sprinklers near Tulelake, which is feeling the effects of the drought. Photos by Carlos Avila Gonzalez / The Chronicle

Time running short for withered farms

Klamath Project's irrigation water could be shut off as fields dry up

By Kurtis Alexander

Nowhere has California's dry winter hit harder than the state's far north.

In a handful of counties along the rural Oregon border, where late-season rains have done little to sate the parched forests and dusty plains, hundreds of farmers are at risk of having their irrigation water shut off — and watching their crops wither in the field.

The Klamath Project, a U.S. government-operated waterworks that steers runoff from the towering Cascades to more than 200,000 acres of potatoes, alfalfa, wheat, onions and other produce on both sides of the state line, is running low on supplies. The local water agencies served by the project say they may not have water to send to farms beyond next month.

The last time irrigation supplies were this scarce in the upper Klamath Basin, 350 miles north of San Francisco, federal marshals



Seus pulls up an organic horseradish plant in a field he is trying to keep viable despite a lack of water on his farm in Siskiyou County.

"What's going to happen when there's no water in the ditch? What's going to happen to our small communities? ... Frankly, I've cried a lot."

Tricia Hill, who farms potatoes, grains and alfalfa in California and Oregon

were called in to maintain order after angry residents broke through a project head gate in protest. Nineteen years later, the prospect of running out of water arrives as the farm-dependent region faces the additional hardship of the coronavirus outbreak. Many businesses here have had to close or cut hours during the pandemic, leaving little cushion for the imminent fallout of drought.

Farms continues on A7

Research on drugs for virus broadens

Bay Area firms studying host of possible treatments

By J.D. Morris

Remdesivir, the antiviral drug made by Foster City's Gilead Sciences that has recently shown promise in treating COVID-19 patients, will likely not turn the tide of the coronavirus pandemic on its own.

Doctors in the Bay Area know that, which is why they're studying a host of other potential treatments that could be used to alleviate the worst symptoms of COVID-19 or keep people out of the hospital entirely. And the scope of the local research seems to be broadening.

The regional efforts raise the possibility that a major advancement in coronavirus treatments could come from the Bay Area, a research powerhouse that has produced drug breakthroughs before. But they have many competitors.

Drugs continues on A8

MORE INSIDE

Park crowds: A lot of people showed up at Bay Area parks Saturday and Sunday, but officials were generally satisfied with the amount of social distance being left. **A6**

Courts: The state's freeze on jury trials is nearly up, but few courts are ready to resume. **B1**

New life: Group of volunteers is refurbishing UCSF's stockpile of expired N95s. **B1**

Interpreters help fill void between patients, doctors

By Carolyn Said

The COVID-19 patient was gasping for breath. As her oxygen levels dropped, the ER team at San Francisco General Hospital knew she needed to be intubated and placed on a ventilator. They called a Cantonese interpreter to explain the gravity of the situation and what to expect.

Dr. Jessica Paz spoke in short sentences, pausing between each phrase to allow the interpreter to speak them in Cantonese over the phone. "We'll give you medications to sleep." "We will put a tube down your throat to get oxygen into your lungs." "You will be connected to a machine to provide breaths for you."

Barely able to speak, the patient nodded in understanding. Paz reassured the woman they

Language continues on A8

Crisis could mean cities' death — or rebirth

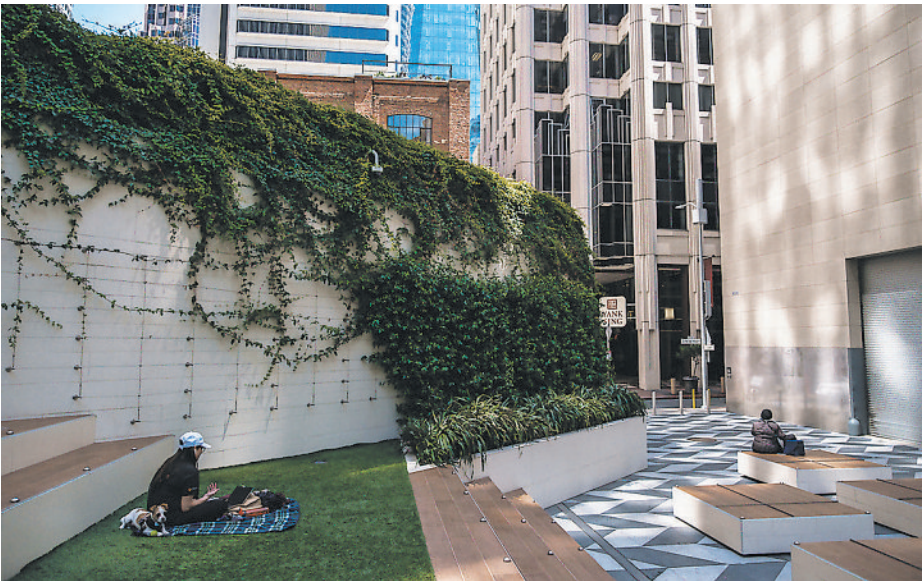
Our nation only now is beginning to emerge from the first stifling phase of its efforts to contain the harrowing threat of a global pandemic. The pronouncements concerning "what comes next" for American cities, however, are already in high gear.

Depending on which supposedly omniscient source you prefer, the specter of a lethal virus that can be transmitted by air or a simple handshake signals the end to dense cities once and for all — or a chance to return to the creative, inclusive urban ideal. It proves the value of the private automobile — or the essential importance of public transit.

Just like political punditry, experts are happy to explain how the current crisis proves the point they've been making all along. But if the past 120 years of urban history are any indication, much of what we are hearing will turn out to be irrelevant or wrong.

Look no further than San Francisco. This

King continues on A9



Nick Otto / Special to The Chronicle

With few people in downtown San Francisco, it's easier to maintain a social distance. But what comes next for our urban centers is anyone's guess.

Coronavirus update

As of 9:30 p.m. Sunday

BAY AREA

12,444 cases **425** deaths

CALIFORNIA

94,253 cases **3,751** deaths

UNITED STATES

1,643,238 cases
97,720 deaths

Source: Chronicle research, county health departments and Johns Hopkins University

